

Amendments to the Drawings:

The PCT application was published with informal drawings. Please replace informal drawings with formal drawings attached herewith as replacement sheets. No new matter was added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

Remarks

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 1-27 and to add new claims 28-47. In addition, the preliminary amendment was made to replace the first paragraph of the specification to reflect current priority information and replace the drawings in the current specification.

It is noted that claim 28 of the present application corresponds to claim 26 of the PCT application, PCT/U.S. 2004/007927 which published as WO 2004/082795 A2 on September 30, 2004. Claim 26 as examined in the PCT was observed in the preliminary search report to possess novelty but not to possess inventive step. There was no specific decision taken with respect to industrial applicability. The PCT Examiner stated in the comments that the absence of a specific requirement of polyurethane sealant in claim 26, was perceived as rendering the claim unclear.

In the written opinion, the PCT Examiner stated that, as a consequence of not having urethane specifically recited in claim 26, novelty or inventive activity could not be acknowledged. Applicants respectfully disagree with the PCT Examiner.

The present claim 28 (previous PCT claim 26) relates to a particular approach to forming an obround element by first providing a first coil and then distorting to the obround shape. This is an advantageous method of manufacturing an obround element.

It is advantageous to use polyurethane sealant, especially polyurethane foam, as a backside sealant in such an operation, see current claim 29. However, the disclosure does not state that such a polyurethane sealant material is essential. Consideration of this point during U.S. examination, is requested.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to claim 46, an independent apparatus claim. This claim is to a subject not evaluated during the PCT examination. Support for claim 46 is found in the specification in association with the descriptions of Figs. 9 and 10.

Claim 47, which appends from claim 46, includes a general definition of the shape of the housing seal ring on the media construction. The particular shape recited is not literally described in the text, but it is clearly shown in Fig. 10, thus no new matter is involved.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Randall A. Hillson (Reg. No. 31,838), at (612) 336-4707.

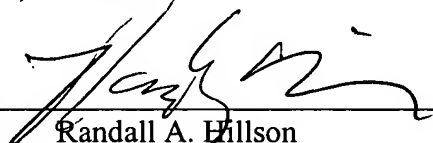


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RAH/cjc

Respectfully submitted,

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